

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES  
MADE, AND LISTING OF ALL CLAIMS WITH PROPER IDENTIFIERS**

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently amended) The stent of claim 6, wherein the ring segments define wave crests and wave valleys, with the wave crests and wave valleys of adjacent ring segments confronting one another in the initial state along an axis in parallel relationship to the longitudinal axis.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 6, wherein the connectors, arranged successively in the longitudinal axis are linked to the arcuate sections by connections, with the connections of the first connectors and the connections of the second connectors confronting one another.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Currently amended) A stent, comprising a tubular support frame defining a longitudinal axis and expandable from an initial state to a support state, said support frame including a plurality of ring segments arranged in succession in a direction of the longitudinal axis and formed by struts, which are curved in the initial state and assume a generally linear configuration in the support state, and U-shaped arcuate sections to join the struts to thereby form a wave-like configuration in a circumferential direction of the support frame, wherein adjacent ring segments are linked by first and second connectors which alternate in a same circumferential plane and repeatedly alternate in the direction of the longitudinal axis and which are each formed with a U-shaped compensating section, with the compensating sections of the first and

second connectors pointing in a same circumferential direction, wherein the first connectors ~~are longer in~~ have, in a direction of the longitudinal axis, a length which is greater than a length of the second connectors and wherein the first connectors have arcuate legs disposed on both sides of the compensating sections and curved in the same circumferential direction as the struts.